

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4743

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3536

FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP PL NI
SUBJ: NEW POLISH AMBASSADOR TO LAGOS

1. THE GOP ANNOUNCED LAST WEEKEND THAT WITOLD JURASZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAD BEEN APPOINTED POLISH AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA. WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED THAT JURASZ WILL LEAVE FOR LAGOS APRIL 29. SINCE JURASZ IS WELL AND MOST FAVORABLY KNOWN TO A NUMBER OF OFFICERS AT THE EMBASSY, I WANTED TO ALERT YOU PROMPTLY ABOUT HIS ASSIGNMENT AND ETA AND SEND SOME BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL FROM EMBASSY FILES.

2. JURASZ WAS BORN NOVEMBER 19, 1931 IN PLESZEW, POLAND, THE SON OF A SCHOOL TEACHER. HE STUDIED AT THE HIGHER SCHOOL OF MARITIME TRADE AT THE BALTIC TOWN OF SOPOT AND THEN CONTINUED HIS STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW, WHERE HE WAS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR UNTIL 1959. HE ALSO SERVED FOR A TIME AS AN ASSISTANT AT GDANSK TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY. JURASZ FINALLY GOT HIS DOCTOR'S DEGREE FROM WARSAW UNIVERSITY IN 1968. THE SUBJECT OF HIS THESIS WAS ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES (READ: "U.S. TRADE RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE
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BLOC"). A PROLIFIC WRITER, JURASZ HAS PUBLISHED NUMEROUS ARTICLES, MOSTLY ON FOREIGN TRADE MATTERS AND MANY UNDER PSEUDONYM.

3. THE PERSONABLE BUT INTENSE JURASZ WORKED FROM 1959 - 1964 AS DEPUTY TRADE ATTACHE IN THE POLISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. (HE RECENTLY TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THIS WAS THE MOST ENJOYABLE PHASE OF HIS CAREER.) NEXT HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE MINISTRY

OF FOREIGN TRADE IN WARSAW AS A SECTION CHIEF, THEN AS A DEPARTMENT VICE DIRECTOR. DURING THIS PERIOD HE ALSO WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL'S PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR STUDYING PROBLEMS OF ZINC AND LEAD TRADE. HE TRAVELLED ABROAD FREQUENTLY WITH POLISH TRADE NEGOTIATION TEAMS.

4. IN 1968 JURASZ WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA, ECUADOR, COLOMBIA AND PERU, RESIDENT IN CARACAS. AMERICANS IN CARACAS DESCRIBED HIM AS WITTY, HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, AMBITIOUS AND AN EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT. ALTHOUGH A MEMBER OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS (COMMUNIST) PARTY, HE WAS CONSIDERED ANTI-SOVIET AND PRO-AMERICAN AND DEVELOPED A CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH US AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK.

5. DURING JURASZ'S CARACAS ASSIGNMENT HIS ATTRACTIVE WIFE DIED OF A BRAIN TUMOR. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED REASSIGNMENT BACK TO WARSAW SO HE COULD BETTER CARE FOR HIS TEENAGE SON AND DAUGHTER. (HE HAS SINCE REMARRIED THE SISTER OF HIS DECEASED WIFE.) AT THE TIME, HE TOLD AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT HE HOPED FOR REASSIGNMENT TO THE MFA, BUT INSTEAD HE WAS GIVEN A DIRECTOR'S JOB IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. IN 1975, HOWEVER, HE WAS NAMED VICE DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT, THE JOB HE HAS HELD UNTIL THE NEW APPOINTMENT TO LAGOS. IN THIS POSITION HE HAS SPECIALIZED IN UN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.

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COUNTRIES.

6. ALTHOUGH WHILE BACK IN WARSAW JURASZ CONTINUED TO TRAVEL ABROAD FREQUENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE AS A POLISH DELEGATE, TO THE 1974 SPECIAL UNGA SESSION IN NEW YORK, WARSAW EMBASSY OFFICERS FELT THAT HIS CAREER HAD PASSED ITS PEAK AFTER HIS RETURN FROM CARACAS. DESPITE THE JOB TITLES, HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE REALLY HAD LITTLE REAL WORK TO DO AND VERY LIMITED RESPONSIBILITIES. THE APPOINTMENT TO LAGOS, WHICH IS AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT THIRD WORLD CAPITALS IN TERMS OF POLISH INTERESTS, THUS SEEMS TO REPRESENT A REAL COMEBACK.

7. JURASZ SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, ALTHOUGH WITH A SLIGHT LISP, AS WELL AS SPANISH AND FRENCH. HIS SECOND WIFE SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH, BUT VERY LITTLE ENGLISH. DURING HIS PRESENT TOUR AT THE MFA, EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE CONSISTENTLY RANKED JURASZ AMONG THE FRIENDLIEST AND MOST APPROACHABLE OFFICIALS THEY HAVE DEALT WITH IN POLAND. WHILE REMAINING TRUE TO HIS MARXIST COLORS (ON THE SURFACE AT LEAST) WITH

RESPECT TO ECONOMIC MATTERS, HE CONTINUES TO APPEAR
CONVINGLY PRO-AMERICAN. WE COMMEND HIM TO YOU
AS WELL WORTH KNOWING.
SCHAUFEELE

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